Start of [The History of Jews of Baiersdorf.].

AR 3015

Sys #: 000195388

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 3015 1/1 [The History of the Jews of Bauersdorf] 1966 - 1999 K

THE HISTORY OF JEWS OF BAIERSDORF

Baiersdorf is a small town in Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia) north of Nuremberg/Fürth, approximately half way between the towns of Erlangen and Forchheim. It had a comparatively large Jewish community. Jews are known to have lived in Baiersdorf in the middle of the 17th century and probably much earlier.

In 1811 97 Jewish families, a total of 457 people made up of 206 males and 251 females, lived in the town.

Below is a 1811 list of all "protected" and "tolerated" Jews in the "Rezartkreis" (Rezart district). District administration Erlangen: Baiersdorf

"Listed are all names of heads of families who, if not otherwise stated, are married, number of sons and daughters (unnamed), number of female or male relatives (unnamed), names of widows, who are counted as heads of families, occupations of heads of families. If not otherwise noted all families are under "unmittelbaren Königsschutz" (unmittelbare königliche Schutzfamilie) (direct royal protection)".

Name:	Number of sons:	Number/daughters:	Relatives	Occupation
Benjamin Kohn	1			trader
Abraham Forchheim	3	2		goes errands
Joseph Kohn	no children			trader
Mayer Kohn		1		trader
Isaac Kohn, single				trader
Hirsch Wolf Levi		2	1 female	trader
Seifel Wolf Levi			1 female	trader
Anschel Isaac	1			trader
Abraham Hirsch	1	3		goes errands
Rebecke Jonas widow		2		Is kept by charity
Baruch Aaron		1		trader
Pinkas Baruch		2		trader
Hirsch Baruch	1	1		trader
Wolf Pretzfelder	6			poor, is kept by charity
Jendel Salomon Samson widow	1	4		poor, is kept by charity
Mendlein Merzbacher	1			poor
Loew Diespeck	3	2		trader
Moses Hüttenbach	2	2		poor
Moses Mittelshofen		4	1 female	paperwork
Samuel Frensdorf		4		trader
Mendlein Kathmann	2	1		goes errands
Kathmann Mendlein	1			trader
Simon Haenlein	1	1		trader
Sara Abraham widow	1	1		trader
Lekisch Mayer	4	2	1 female	trader
Salomon Springer, single			1 female	trader
Isaac Springer	3	1		trader
Güthel Mayer Loew widow		2		poor
Moses Mayer Loew	1	2	1 female	trader
Michel Raphael	2	2		poor
Nattaß Wolf Lazarus widow				poor, kept by charity, no "Schutz"
Kroenla, Wolf Nathan widow	1			poor
Wolf Loew	trader			
Rebecka, Loew Wolf widow		2		poor
Jacob Mayer	3			poor
Jacob Mendel	3			goes errands
David Marx			1 female	poor
Marx David		1		trader
Hirsch Baer Levi		3	4 female	trader
Mendlein Baer	1	1		trader
Moses Salomon	6	3		poor
Hanelein Loew Kohn	1	2		trader
Salomon David Kohn	1			trader
Joel Frensdorfer	2	1	1 female	trader
Veitel Baer Levi		4	1 female	trader
Wolf Ottensoos		1	1 female	trader

AR 3015 Baiersdorf b Bamberg, Jewish Community, Bavaria
Thor Heyd Stone

BAIERSDORF

Moses David		3		trader
Name:	Number of sons:	Number/daughters:	Relatives	Occupation
Hirsch Mendel, widower		1		goes errands
Veitel Hirsch Levi	1			goes errands
Haenlein Salomon Weil				trader
Salomon Weil, single				trader
Juda Loew Kohn	1	1		trader
Mayer Gerson	1	4		poor
Maenlein Gerson				poor
Samuel Hirsch Gidiar	2	1		trader
Gerson Baer Gidiar	2	2		trader
Lazarus Kohn	2	1		poor
Maennlein Wolf	1	1		poor
Kallmann Eisig	1	2		trader
Moses Hagenbach	2	1	1 female	trader
Sara, Samuel widow				poor kept by charity, no "Schutz"
Mayer Samuel	1	1	1 female	trader
Salomon Eisig	2	3	1 female	trader
Jantof Lazarus	1	1		trader
Maennlein Lazarus	1		1 female	trader
Jantoff Maennlein				trader
Loefer Loew Hirsch	2	3	1 male	
			2 female	trader
Hayum Baer Levi	1	1	1 male	trader
Simon Mayer	2	5		trader
Lehla, Isaac Vorehheim widow				poor
Nathan Hirsch				trader
Lazarus Sulzbaeher	4	1	1 female	trader
Güthel, David Pasfist widow	2	4		poor, no "Schutz"
Baer Marx Levi			1 female	trader
Abraham Baer Levi	1	trader		
Eisig Loew Berlein	1		1 female	trader
Isaac Seligmann	4	3	1 female	trader
Michael Dormitz	1	2	1 female	trader
Moses Kohn	3	1		trader
David Moses	4	poor		
Nathan Baer	3	2		trader
Baruch Loew	1	1		trader
Isaac Merzbacher	2	4	1 female	trader
Lippmann Baer				trader
Maennlein Moses		1		trader
Edel, Moses Selka widow	2	1		poor
Lazarus Isaac, single				trader
Simon David Dispecker	4	5		trader also assistant rabbi, no "Schutz"
Seligkind	4	2		cantor, no "Schutz"
Abraham Seckel	2			assistant rabbi and clerk to country district Jews
Josua Levi		1		school teacher
Samuel Lazarus	1	2		school teacher
Koppel Kips	2	1		school teacher
Haennlein Hayum Weil	4	1		school teacher
Moses Wolf	1	1	1 female	synagogue servant, no "Schutz"
Salomon Jacob				writer of torah, no "Schutz"
Jantof Levi	1	3		school teacher

Of the 97 families seven families were without "Schutz"[1]

[1] State Archives Nuremberg Rep.270/II Nr.30

As elsewhere in Bavaria the 1813 "Judenedict" took its toll here too. The number of Jews to settle in the little town being strictly limited by the "Matrikel" laws, children of Jewish inhabitants had to find other places to settle, such as Forchheim, Ichenhausen, Fürth, Munich etc. A great many emigrated in the 1840/60s finding a new home in the United States and a few came to England.

After the edict of 1861, when Jews were at last given the chance to move freely, many settled in larger towns. A new Jewish community was also established in nearby Erlangen, where no Jews had been allowed to live since 1711.

THE POPULATION OF BAIERSDORF

Year	Inhabitants	No.Jews	Percentage of Population
1709		34 families	
1728		54 families	
1763		79 families	
1776		367	
1807		83 families	
1811		97 families	
		457	
1837		440	28.4%
1867		153	11.5%
1871		128	10.1%
1880		86	6.1%
1890		55	4.4%
1900		33	2.5%
1910		32	2.3%
1925	1300	12	1.3%
1932	1400	14	1.0%
1933 (16.5)		19	

Of the 19 Jews who still lived in Baiersdorf in 1933, two died in Nuremberg and Hanover in 1936 and 1937 respectively. Others still managed to emigrate to the U.S.A., Brazil and other countries. One woman, married to a non-Jew, continued to live in Baiersdorf until her death in 1957.

A married couple, the last two Jewish residents of Baiersdorf were arrested on 20 November 1938 and taken to the Town Hall in Erlangen. The couple moved in with family members in Fürth. Their intention to emigrate to the U.S.A. was blocked by the Erlangen administration, objecting to them being issued with passports. When they eventually obtained passports, it was too late for them to be able to leave Germany. They were moved to the former "Sahlmann-Villa" in Fürth, which had been confiscated and used to accommodate many Jewish families, who had been forced out of their houses and apartments, until they were eventually transported to Izbica in 1942. They were finally reported "missing" there and "declared dead" in 1953[2]

[2]Ilse Sponsel: Auflösung und Ende der jüdischen Gemeinde Baiersdorf

The Newspaper "Erlanger Tageblatt" had reported on 23 November 1938:

> "With the removal of the couple..... Baiersdorf has become practically free of Jews. So a problem of the last centuries has finally ended.... The Star of David, which insolently shone above the local synagogue for four centuries, was taken down and the interior of the synagogue was destroyed. As the synagogue was partly damaged through this, this rather dilapidated building will be demolished. In a few years, where the synagogue and Jewish cemetery is now is, it is intended to build a new school and to make sportfields for the training of our youth. Neither shall the name "Judengasse" remind us any longer of what unfortunately once used to be, but shall never be again".

However in 1997 the name Judengasse, situated in the very centre of Baiersdorf, again bears its old name, though none of the former Jewish buildings are recognisable or are possibly no longer in existance.

Judengasse in the centre of Baiersdorf
Photograph 1997

THE BAIERSDORF SYNAGOGUE

The Synagogue was built in 1711 and stood in Judengasse. The interior had been donated by Samson Salomon Baiersdorf, whose daughter married Moses, son of Glückel von Hameln. The beautiful curtain covering the aron ha kodesh until the devastation of the synagogue on 9th November 1938 is said to have been presented by Glückel.

As everywhere in Germany the synagogue was entered on that night, the interior looted and destroyed. One Thora scroll appears to have been saved and been hidden in Baiersdorf for over 50 years. In the last year or so it has emerged and is now displayed in the "Meerrettich Museum" (Horseradish Museum) located in Judengasse.

In 1997 the savingsbank built on the site of the former synagogue carries a memorial tablet with an impression of the former synagogue and the inscription "Synagoge 1711 - 1938"

Next to the synagogue stood the house of the Rabbi. Hirsch Lekisch Aub, son of ancestor Lekisch Aub born on Baiersdorf around 1767/1770, received "Schutz" in Baiersdorf in May 1817. He had studied in Prague and received his qualification as rabbi from the administration of Upper Franconia. Before being selected as Rabbi of Munich in 1826 he may have officiated in Baiersdorf. Had he possibly lived in this house?

THE BAIERSDORF CEMETERY

The Baiersdorf Jewish cemetery is also situated in the middle of the town behind the former synagogue. It served several of the Jewish communities of the surrounding areas. Some of the graves are believed to go back to the beginning of the 15th century.

Die einstmalige Barock-Synagoge -und der Friedhof von Baiersdorf.

Diese Aufnahmen sind gemacht ,als wir damals von Bamberg aus jüdische Friedhöfe aufsuchten; es gab eine Anzahl jüdischer Gemeinden in der Nähe der Städte Bamberg, Fürth, Forchheim und Nürnberg, die sich schon im 16 .und 17. Jahrhundert dort angesiedelt hatten.
Dazu gehörte die Gemeinde Baiersdorf, zwischen Bamberg und Forchheim gelegen, deren Mitglieder vermögend und angesehenen waren.
Der Baiersdorfer Friedhof lag am Ende der Ortschaft; zur linken Seite des Eingangs stand die Synagoge, von aussen gesehen ein schlichter Bau mit einem hohen spitzen Giebel und schmalen hohen Bogenfenstern. (Bild 1.)
Nur die ornamentale ,geschwungene Eingangspforte verriet ihre Entstehung, so um die zweite Hälfte des 17. Jahrhunderts.
Der Synagoge schloss sich die düstere ,kalte Mickwah und die Totenhalle an. (Bild 2.)
Aber das Innere der Synagoge mit den hohen Bogenfenstern war voller Licht, das den herrlichen barocken Thoraschrein beleuchtete mit seinem weiss-goldenen Bögen, verziert und unterbrochen von einer dunkel-grünen Holztäfelung. Der hohe Schrein reichte bis an dem runden Mittelfenster, unter dem die Tafeln mit den zehn Geboten deutlich sichtbar waren. (Bild 3)
Die herrlichen, drei- sechs- und achtarmigen Messinglampen, die kleine und die grosse Menorah, die in der Mitte des runden, geschnitzten Vorbeterpultes brannten und das braune Holzgestühle bespiegelten, gaben dem sonst so einfachen Raum ein feierliches Gepräge.
Noch standen die Gebetpulte wie sie ehemals gestanden haben,

noch lagen die alten Gebetbücher darauf, noch brannten auf jedem Pult die kleinen Leuchter mit den Wachskerzen.
Von besonderer Schönheit ,dem Thoraschrein angeglichen, waren die herrlichen schweren Thoravorhänge, die "Porauches", in rotem und gelbem Sammet, bestickt in reichlichem Gold und Silber, mit den zehn Geboten, von Löwen gehalten und mit Kronen verziert.

Für die hohen Feiertage wurde gewöhnlich der gelbe Damastvorhang gehängt, den die "Glückel von Hammeln" in Erinnerung und aus Anlass der Hochzeit ihres Sohnes, Reb Moses, der als Rabbiner dort amtierte, der Gemeinde gestiftet, oder gar selbst gestickt hat.
Die "Glückel" hatte sich zehn Wochen in Baiersdorf aufgehalten, bis die Mitgift ausbezahlt, die Heirats-erlaubnis gegeben- und im Monat Siwan 1700 die Hochzeit des Reb Moses mit der Tochter des angesehenen und vermögenden Gemeindevorstehers Samson erfolgen konnte.
Die Frauenabteilung, völlig getrennt von dem Hauptraum, mit etwa 30 Sitzen, durch eine Vorhalle nur zugänglich, auf einer kleinen Balustrade,war, wie üblich ,mit einem dichten Gittergeflecht versehen.
Sehr gut erhalten stand ,noch und gerade, der aus Gusseisen geschmiedete "Mezzenbehälter am Eingang der Synagoge , deren Tore wuchtig, aber schlicht, die kleine Vorhalle abschlossen.

Der Friedhof, hinter einer hohen grauen Mauer mit einem wuchtigen Eingangstor, dehnte sich weit rückwärts der Synagoge aus. Er zeigte gut erhaltene Grabsteine aus Granit und bayrischem Sandstein, darunter einige der Rabbiner -und Gemeindevorsteher, (Bild 4) manche klar und schön beschriftet, des öfteren mit Psalmen und Ornamenten geziert, die Meisterwerke tüchtiger Steinmetzekunst repräsentierten.
Die Synagoge, dieses Denkmal jüdischer Kultur und Zeugnis einstmaliger Schönheit-- ist völlig der Katastrophe zwischen 1930 und 1940 zum Opfer gefallen.
Der Friedhof, so höre ich vom Baiersdorfer Bügermeister, besteht teilweise noch und wird von der Stadtgemeinde betreut.

Paul A. Gallimore

End of [The History of Jews of Baiersdorf.].